

Application No.: 10/065,076

Docket No.: JCLA10020-R

REMARKS**Present Status of the Application**

The Office Action rejected claims 1-11. Specifically, the Office Action rejected claims 1-3, 5-7 and 9-11 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kato (U.S. Patent 5,738,181). The Office Action rejected claims 4 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kato. Claims 1-11 remain pending in the present application, and reconsideration of those claims is respectfully requested.

Discussion of Office Action Rejections

The Office Action rejected claims 1-3, 5-7 and 9-11 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kato. The Office Action rejected claims 4 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kato. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections for at least the reasons set forth below.

The Office Action particularly in point 5 (pages 3-4) states that Kato in Fig. 4 has disclosed the nut 5, which has slightly tapered and rounded ends with the recess 8 in FIG 3 (col. 4, lines 28-36). However, the Office Action has improperly construed the disclosure of Kato.

Basically, Kato merely intends to facilitate the press-fitting of the nut member 5 into the inner bore of the enlarged portion 4, and accordingly, the annular recess 7 or 8 should be position near the annular shoulder 4a or over an inner end portion of the nut member 5 (col. 3, line 45 – col. 4, line 10. The present invention requires non-fitting surface 14b on the opposite ends of the nut 4. The reason is that the moment loads are applied on the opposite ends of the nut.

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In more detail, as shown in Fig. 3 and Fig. 4 of Kato, the recess 8 is only expected at one end (C portion) of the nut member 5. *However, the A portion is not expected to have the recess (col. 3, line 65 – col. 4, line 2). This can be reasonably understood due to the free space at one end of the nut 6 opposite to the end with recess 8 (see attached drawing Appendix).*

Therefore, in the design of Kato, only one side has the recess 8 but not both sides as recited in claims 1 and 5. In comparing FIG. 4 with Fig. 3 of Kato, the structure of nut 5 of Kato at the A-portion end (or D portion indicated by Applicant) does not disclose the same structure of the present invention.

From the other point of view, due the specific design at the D portion with the free space without contacting the rod 1, the recess 8 is only needed at one side (C-portion) to have the balance force. This structure disclosed by Kato is quite different from the claimed invention.

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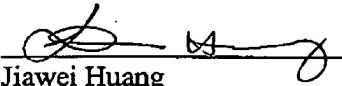
CONCLUSION

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is believed that all the pending claims 1-11 of the invention patentably define over the prior art and are in proper condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would expedite the examination of the above-identified patent application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

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